

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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opposed vote nay. Members, would you please vote if you care to. Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of Senator Thompson's amendment to the committee amendments.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: The amendment is adopted. Next item.

CLERK: Senator Thompson, the next two amendments I think you want to withdraw, Senator, okay. Mr. President, Senator Thompson would move to amend with AM1250. (Legislative Journal pages 1430-1435.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Thompson, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. This is an amendment I offer somewhat reluctantly because I...my view is that the juvenile justice system should have oversight and access to secured confinement for the youth in the system. This is a compromise. It's been reached with the Department of Corrections and the Department of Health and Human Services. It's a compromise on faith because they have some initial steps that they need to take, but this is, essentially, what can happen if things go according to plan. The secure youth facility which was built in Omaha was built with a capacity of I believe around 65 to 75, depending upon how rooms are configured or double bunked, but it is a facility, as Senator Pedersen said, that can be mirrored. At the time the land was purchased, it was purchased for double the size. All the facilities there, the cafeteria, the intake, the laundry facilities, the support facilities were built so that they could serve two of the same size of housing units. What the proposal under discussion is, there is federal funding available that can be applied for for additional housing units at the facility, which could serve to provide additional placements for secure confinement for youth, which we know we need. And I passed out a part of the report of the Juvenile Justice System Task Force, which called for the fact that about 10 percent of the kids in the system do need some type of secure confinement based on the kind of offenses that they've committed and based upon their risk for flight. So what this proposal that we heard about yesterday afternoon was